

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0981
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01663

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: RESPONSES TO JAPANESE GOVERNMENT

REF: TOKYO 06284

1. AS REQUESTED REFTEL, USUN HAS PROVIDED TO JAPANESE MISSION TO UN AGREED WESTERN FIVE RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS POSED BY JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY CONCERNING NAMIBIA. RESPONSES WERE MADE ORALLY ON THE BASIS OF TALKING POINTS CONTAINED PARA 4. JAPANESE MISSION TO UN ASSURED US THAT RESPONSES WOULD BE REPORTED TO THEIR FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT WE ASSUME THAT WESTERN FIVE EMBASSIES IN TOKYO WILL WISH TO MAKE FOLLOW-UP APPROACH WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY. EMBASSY TOKYO IS ACCORDINGLY REQUESTED TO PASS TALKING POINTS TO WESTERN FIVE COLLEAGUES.

2. IN ADDITION TO RESPONSES BELOW, WE EXPRESSED U.S. APPRECIATION FOR CONTINUED JAPANESE SUPPORT FOR OUR
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EFFORTS AND INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING IN THE CIVILIAN COMPONENT OF ANY U.N. PRESENCE IN NAMIBIA. WE INDICATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS ON THE PLANS FOR THE CIVILIAN COMPONENT AND THAT WE EXPECT NONE IN ADVANCE OF ACTION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL. WE ASSURED JAPANESE THAT WE WOULD PROVIDE THEM WITH ANY NEW INFORMATION AS SOON AS IT BECAME AVAILABLE. THEY EXPRESSED

APPRECIATION FOR THE RESPONSES AND FOR OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO KEEP THEM ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS IN NAMIBIA.

3. AS THIS CABLE WAS BEING CLEARED, WE RECEIVED WORD THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS ACCEPTED THE WESTERN FIVE PROPOSAL ON NAMIBIA. IN LIGHT OF THIS DEVELOPMENT, THE RESPONSES GIVEN TO THE JAPANESE MISSION TO THE UN HAVE BEEN OVERTAKEN. WE, THEREFORE, SUGGEST THAT WESTERN FIVE EMBASSIES IN TOKYO SIMPLY INFORM HOST GOVERNMENT THAT THE RESPONSES TO THEIR QUESTIONS WERE GIVEN TO THEIR MISSION TO THE UN AND THAT USUN WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP THEIR MISSION FULLY INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS.

4. FOLLOWING ARE THE WESTERN FIVE'S AGREED RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL:

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS POSED BY JAPANESE GOVERNMENT CONCERNING NAMIBIA

1. Q. IS THERE A MORE PRECISE TIMETABLE FOR UN ACTIONS
 - (E.G. WHEN DO WE ANTICIPATE VOTE ON FIRST RESOLUTION)?
 - A. THE FIVE GOVERNMENTS ARE ANXIOUS FOR FORMAL SECURITY COUNCIL DELIBERATIONS ON OUR PROPOSAL TO BEGIN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THE SECURITY COUNCIL
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- MET FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATION ON THIS MATTER
- APRIL 13, BUT THERE WAS OPPOSITION FROM THE AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL TO A FORMAL MEETING AT THAT TIME. THE OPPOSITION WAS BASED ON THE BELIEF THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD NOT MEET ON NAMIBIA PRIOR TO THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON NAMIBIA (FOR FEAR OF PRE-EMPTING THE SPECIAL SESSION) AND ADDITIONALLY ON A RELUCTANCE ON THE PART OF THE AFRICANS TO MEET IN THE ABSENCE OF REACTIONS FROM SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICA TO OUR PROPOSAL. THERE DOES SEEM, HOWEVER, TO BE AGREEMENT THAT THE COUNCIL SHOULD MEET FORMALLY REGARDING NAMIBIA FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE SPECIAL SESSION. HOW SOON THEREAFTER THE COUNCIL WILL BE WILLING TO ACT ON OUR PROPOSAL IS NOT CLEAR; HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN ENCOURAGED BY THE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT WHICH OUR PROPOSAL HAS RECEIVED FROM MANY NATIONS, INCLUDING THE FRONTLINE AFRICAN STATES. (FYI, THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSION RUNS FROM APRIL 24 - MAY 4. END FYI.)

2. Q. ARE THERE SPECIFIC WAYS IN WHICH THE JAPANESE MIGHT

- LEND THEIR SUPPORT (E.G. LEVERAGE WITH PARTICULAR
- DELEGATIONS, ETC.)?

- A. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY SUPPORT WHICH THE GOVERN-
- MENT OF JAPAN COULD GIVE TO OUR PROPOSAL.
- CERTAINLY A PUBLIC STATEMENT OF FULL SUPPORT WOULD
- BE SIGNIFICANT AND GREATLY APPRECIATED. IN
- ADDITION, ANY EFFORT WHICH THE JAPANESE DELEGATION
- TO THE UNITED NATIONS COULD MAKE TO ENCOURAGE THE
- SUPPORT OF OTHER DELEGATIONS, PARTICULARLY OF
- SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS, WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL.
- THE DELEGATIONS OF OUR FIVE GOVERNMENTS TO THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01663

- UNITED NATIONS CONTINUE TO BE IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH
- YOUR DELEGATION IN NEW YORK AND ARE MOST GRATEFUL
- FOR ITS INTEREST AND ASSISTANCE.

3. Q. SCHEDULE IN ANNEX TO PROPOSAL APPEARS VERY TIGHT --

- WILL THERE BE SUFFICIENT TIME AFTER ELECTIONS TO
- DRAFT CONSTITUTION?

- A. IN DRAFTING OUR PROPOSAL WE HAVE BEEN CONSCIOUS
- OF ALLOWING ADEQUATE TIME FOR ALL STAGES OF
- THE TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENCE. THE AMOUNT OF
- TIME WHICH WILL EXIST PRIOR TO THE END OF THE

- YEAR FOR THE MEETING OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY
 - WILL OF COURSE DEPEND PRIMARILY ON HOW SOON THE
 - TRANSITIONAL PERIOD BEGINS. WE BELIEVE,
 - HOWEVER, THAT THE FINAL DATE FOR INDEPENDENCE CONTAINED
 - IN THE PROPOSAL (DECEMBER 31, 1978) IS NOT AN ABSOLUTE
 - DATE BUT RATHER A TARGET. INDEPENDENCE SHOULD COME TO
 - NAMIBIA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT THE PRIORITY SHOULD BE
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- PLACED NOT SO MUCH ON SPEED AS ON THE ADEQUATE COM-
- PLETION OF EACH PREPARATORY STAGE. THUS WE DO NOT BELIEVE
- THAT IT WOULD BE OF PARAMOUNT CONCERN IF INDEPENDENCE
- WERE TO SLIP SLIGHTLY INTO 1979. IN ADDITION, THERE IS
- SOME SENTIMENT, PARTICULARLY WITHIN SWAPO, THAT THE
- PARTIES COMPETING IN THE ELECTION MIGHT RUN ON THE BASIS
- OF PARTY PLATFORMS EACH CONTAINING A CONSTITUTION
- FOR THE INDEPENDENT NAMIBIA. IF THAT WERE IN FACT THE
- CASE, THE WORK OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY COULD BE
- CONSIDERABLY SHORTER.

4. Q. HAS SOUTH AFRICA ACCEPTED THE LIMIT OF 1500 ON ITS
- FORCES?

- A. WITH REGARD TO THE SIZE AND LOCATION OF THE SOUTH
- AFRICAN RESIDUAL FORCE, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERN-
- MENT HAS NOT YET ACCEPTED THE TERMS CONTAINED IN
- THE PROPOSAL. THEIR MOST RECENT POSITION HAS BEEN
- ACCEPTANCE OF A RESIDUAL FORCE OF 3,000 LOCATED,
- HOWEVER, AT 8 BASES ALONG THE NORTHERN BORDER OF
- NAMIBIA IN ADDITION TO THE LOCATION(S) CITED IN OUR
- PROPOSAL (GROOTFONTEIN AND/OR OSHIVELLO). FOR
- THEIR PART, SWAPO HAS AGREED TO A RESIDUAL
- SOUTH AFRICAN FORCE OF 1500 BUT ONLY IF THEY ARE
- LOCATED AT KARASBURG IN SOUTHERN NAMIBIA. IT
- SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT SINCE WE HAVE PRE-
- SENTED OUR FINAL PROPOSAL TO BOTH PARTIES, NEITHER
- SIDE HAS GIVEN ANY FORMAL REACTION AND BOTH SEEM
- TO BE CAREFULLY CONSIDERING THEIR RESPONSES.

5. Q. WILL QUESTION OF EXPENSES FOR THE UN TRANSITION
- ASSISTANCE GROUP (UNTAG) COME UP AT SPECIAL
- SESSION ON NAMIBIA?

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- A. WHEN AND IF THE SECURITY COUNCIL GIVES ITS ENDORSE-

- MENT TO OUR PROPOSAL, A SPECIAL SESSION
- OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL HAVE TO BE CONVENED
- TO AUTHORIZE THE FINANCING OF A UN ROLE. THIS IS
- ONE OF THE REASONS THAT OUR FIVE GOVERNMENTS WERE
- ANXIOUS FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO CONSIDER OUR
- PROPOSAL PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED SPECIAL SESSION;
- HOWEVER, AS EXPLAINED ABOVE, THIS HAS NOT BEEN
- POSSIBLE. IN THE ABSENCE OF SECURITY COUNCIL
- ENDORSEMENT, WE DO NOT ENVISION CONSIDERATION BY
- THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE FINANCING OF UNTAG.

6. Q. WOULD CIVILIAN MEMBERS OF UNTAG BE SENT TO NAMIBIA

- DIRECTLY BY THEIR GOVERNMENTS OR WOULD THEY BE
- DETAILED FIRST TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND THEN SENT
- TO NAMIBIA WITH UN STATUS?
- A. THE SELECTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF CIVILIAN AND
- MILITARY PARTICIPANTS OF UNTAG WOULD BE CONDUCTED
- IN ACCORDANCE WITH PAST UN PRACTICE CONCERNING
- PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS. PERSONNEL CONTRIBUTED
- TO UNTAG WOULD THUS BE ASSIGNED TO THE UNITED
- NATIONS AND WOULD BE SENT TO NAMIBIA AS PART OF A
- UNITED NATIONS PRESENCE. YOUNG

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